

## **“BUDDY POPPY”®AND NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM REPORT**

**2019/2020 CHAIRMAN LYNN PIERRE**

What an astounding and memorable year for us all! Not only has the focus on “Buddy”®Poppy/VFW National Home been increased by this Program, all of you have completed an amazing year of support for both. Many of the Department of Arizona Auxiliaries held multiple Poppy Drives both in and outside our Posts. I am so happy to have been able to select one of our Auxiliaries, VFW 11014, Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary in Meadview, for a National Citation for Outstanding utilization and promotion of both the “Buddy”®Poppy and the VFW National Home.

Many thanks to Madam President, Sheila Eiler for asking me to present the “Buddy”®Poppy/VFW National Home Program. This was not only an honor for me, but another great opportunity to meet so many of you as we traveled throughout this great State of ours. Every Post/Auxiliary has its own fun and flavor and its such a joy to explore that and meet new lifelong friends! Unfortunately, the COVID-19 did not allow us to complete every visit we were looking forward to, and stopped our National President from visiting, but we were ready, willing and able. This too shall pass, and we will come back stronger, better prepared and so fired up!

Based on the number of year end reports received this year, I am happy to say there is clearly more support and participation than ever before. Many, many thanks to all of you who sent in donations above and beyond the Health and Happiness Fund to our VFW National Home for Children and our Arizona Home. I am extremely impressed to advise you have gathered and donated \$6,513.20 this year which will be so well utilized at those homes. Also, we have picked up over 30 new life members, and one Associate Member for the Home. This in total, gives the Home a much-needed boost! I know that many of you have saved the Rack Cards and the VFW National Home phone number on your Smartphones in order to be prepared when we meet a veteran who just might need those resources – God Bless you All! Any helping hand for our Veterans is so much appreciated.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to you all for being so open to ideas, forming great projects and welcoming us all as Chairmen this year. All our Auxiliaries are an amazing team with so much more to contribute for our Veterans and their Families. Finally, a huge virtual hug and thanks to PDP Sheila Shutts, (Pebbles) for all the hard work she does on the Web Page, PinPoints and the PARs to keep us organized, and Kim Sloan, our Secretary/Treasurer for always being there with the paperwork, answers and input. Stay safe and well and I hope to see you all out and about very soon.